

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
July 8, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Vallone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Carty (arrived at 7:15 pm), Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused: Chimenti

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis, Detective Kamieniecki, Auditor, Kathryn Mantell

**REPORTS**

**Councilman Hand – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds**

No report.

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that the inspection and videotaping of the sewer system was recently completed and during the inspection a damaged sewer main along Route 202 was discovered. It was believed to have been damaged by the installation of a utility pole by JCP&L. She noted that the Borough Environmental Engineer, Adam Stern has been actively monitoring the issue and was coordinating the repair, which may involve the closure of Route 202 and possible short term power outage. The anticipated repair cost was estimated to be \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 and reimbursement would be requested from JCP&L.

**Councilman Surks – Roads**

Councilman Surks reported that Bedminster DPW Director, John Mantz has been provided an inventory of roadways in the Borough that are in need of repair and remediation efforts were underway. Councilman Surks stated that repair work on the culvert on Lake Road was pending the review by Somerset County.

He continued stating that NJDOT approved the modification of scope for the Mine Brook Road project which should lessen the financial impact of the project. Lastly, he reported the Douglas Road, Section 2 road project bid opening was scheduled for July 9, 2019 at 10:45 am in Bernards Township.

**Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance**

No report.

**Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner presented the June 2019 police report. He stated that “No Parking” signs were being installed along a section of Peapack Road.

Council President Karner reported that he and Councilman Carty have been progressing PBA negotiations and Borough's Human Resources Officer, Jill Searing was preparing a benchmarking analysis.

### **Chief DeCarolis**

Chief DeCarolis stated that the Police Department could provide vacation property checks for residents.

### **Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone asked Mr. Sordillo to provide an update regarding the status with the Court and Fair Share Housing Center (FSHC). Mr. Sordillo responded that he had a conference call with Judge Miller this morning and a follow-up conference call was scheduled for July 24, 2019 in order to provide continual updates to the Court regarding the Borough's progress. He noted that a draft order to outline the timeframe for submission of documents was currently being reviewed with the Court, FSHC and Borough professionals and once authorized by Judge Miller could be made available to the public.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6/24/19 – Regular Meeting

Motion by Councilman President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release. Councilwoman Tweedie abstained.

6/24/19 – Executive Session Meeting

Motion by Councilman President Karner, seconded by Councilman Surks, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only. Councilwoman Tweedie abstained.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Borough Auditor, Kathryn Mantell of Nisivoccia, LLC provided an overview of the 2018 Audit and commented that the only recommendation pertained to the segregation of duties. It was noted that due to the limited number of staff, this recommendation had also occurred in prior audit recommendations. She also commended CFO, Debra Stern for her open communication and professionalism.

### **Resolution 19-102 – Certification of Audit**

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolution 19-102 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

### **Resolution 19-103 – Corrective Action Plan**

Motion by Councilman Carty, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolution 19-103 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

Borough Auditor, Kathryn Mantell left the meeting at this time.

**Resolution 19-104 – Authorizing Endorsement of the Planning Board’s Adoption of the Borough’s Amended Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan**

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolution 19-104 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**Resolution 19-105 – Bill List**

Motion by Councilman Surks, seconded by Councilman Hand that Resolution 19-105 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *The Mayor and Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.*

Dr. George Mellendick, 260 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired if the time frame established by the Court was realistic specifically in regard to the environmental or traffic study analyses. He also inquired as to the efficacy of the environmental analysis if conducted by the developer’s professional.

Karen Reilly, 7 Fox Hunt Court, Far Hills inquired if a schedule and task list could be made available to residents regarding the affordable housing development process.

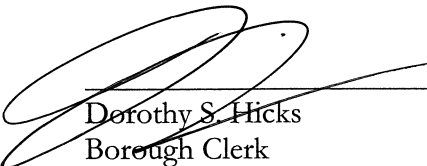
Mr. Sordillo briefly outlined the process with the Court, Planning Board and Borough Council and indicated that a timeline could be developed and posted on the website.

There were no further comments from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 7/22/19